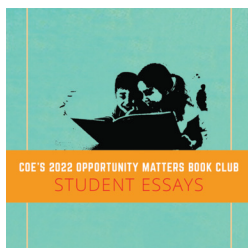


2022 Year in Review

January 2022

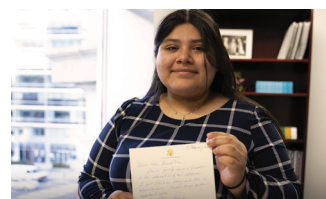
COE names **Terry Vaughan III** as its **Vice President of Research and Director of the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education**. **Dr. Vaughan**, a TRIO McNair alumnus, previously served as the Associate Director of the Pell Institute.



COE continues its national book club, re-branded as the **Opportunity Matters Book Club**, for the second year. The 2022 effort centers around the 1983 coming-of-age story, *The House on Mango Street*, by **Sandra Cisneros**, who worked for the **Upward Bound** program at **Loyola University** in Chicago. Over 60 clubs representing more than 50 institutions participate. TRIO alumna and 2018 Family Achievement Award recipient **Deloris Davis Grant** serves as the national book club chair and introduces a [student essay challenge](#) to the book club experience.

February 2022

COE partners with the **Biden-Harris Administration** to promote several national relief efforts—**Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** and the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**. COE hosts an informational webinar with the Office of the Under Secretary on PSLF. Later that month, University of Pennsylvania TRIO Upward Bound participant **Llulisa Valdiva**, whose family participates in ACP for its free and low-cost internet, introduces Vice President **Kamala Harris** at the White House during the program's announcement.



March 2022

President Biden signs the **FY22 omnibus appropriations bill**, providing **Federal TRIO Programs** with **\$1.137 billion** in funding—an increase of **\$40 million (3.8%)**.



The **Biden-Harris Administration** releases its **budget request to Congress for FY23** and asks Congress for a **\$161 million** (or 14%) funding increase for TRIO, for a total proposed appropriation of **\$1.298 billion** in FY23.

COE hosts the first hybrid annual **Policy Seminar** and welcomes over **500 in-person attendees back to Washington D.C.** **Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona** attends in person to deliver [keynote remarks](#). Participants also hear from **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)**, **Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH)**, and **Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)**. TRIO professionals from 238 congressional districts meet with 454 congressional offices.

April 2022

COE partners with **Nucleus**, a company that offers hands-on learning experiences centered around **technology, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy**, to host a **virtual business pitch competition** for TRIO participants. The [pitch competition](#) allows high school and college students to develop a brief competitive presentation to propose their

2022 Year in Review



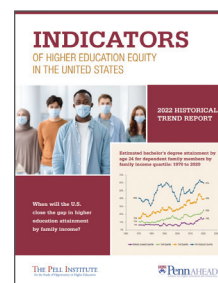
business ideas to an audience and a panel of judges, including TRIO alumni and business leaders. Student contestants win over \$5,000 in scholarships.

COE secures 275 signatures from a bipartisan coalition of Members from across the U.S. House of Representatives on the letter to publicly support increased TRIO funding. The letter asks appropriators to “prioritize funding” for Federal TRIO Programs in FY23. Co-led by **Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI-04), Christopher Smith (R-NJ-04), Nikema Williams (D-GA-05), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO-04), Donald Payne (D-NJ-10), Fred Upton (R-MI-06), Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24), Trent Kelly (R-MS-1), Christopher Pappas (D-NH-01), and Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21)**, signatories include 75 Republican Members and the leadership of the House Republican Conference, House Democratic Caucus, National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), New Democrat Coalition, and Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC).

May 2022

COE secures 56 signatures from a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators supporting a robust increase to TRIO funding. The letter is co-led by Senate TRIO Caucus Chairs **Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)** and **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)**.

The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education releases its seventh annual report, *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States*. As the centerpiece of the release event, a webcast in partnership with *Inside Higher Ed* allows the report to reach an additional 1,100 stakeholders in higher education and helps the Pell Institute expand its audience.



COE unveils an entirely reconstructed and redesigned website at coenet.org. The redesign includes updated web pages, a more contemporary design aesthetic, information for a broader audience, and a greater emphasis on the accomplishments of TRIO students.

June 2022

COE partners with Comcast NBCUniversal, Universal Pictures, and Universal Parks and Resorts to strengthen STEAM preparation among low-income, first-generation college-bound students participating in TRIO programs. COE pilots a STEAM Club curriculum using concepts from the *Jurassic World Dominion* film at 34 Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science and Talent Search sites. Students participate in a hands-on curriculum focused on paleontology, animatronics, and DNA. 350 students from these TRIO projects receive an all-expense-paid trip to **Universal Studios Hollywood** to attend a college and career fair, participate in interactive STEAM demonstrations, hear



2022 Year in Review

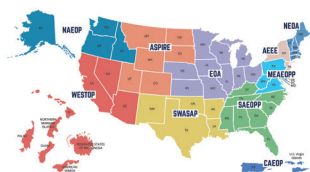
from filmmakers and movie stars, and experience an exclusive premiere showing of the film. Comcast NBCUniversal provides each student attending the event with a free laptop from its Internet Essentials program.

The House Committee on Appropriations passes the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) funding bill for the fiscal year 2023. The legislation proposes a \$161 million (14%) increase for the Federal TRIO Programs for FY23 and includes language directing the Department of Education to extend TRIO eligibility to DACA-eligible students. This amount reflects the budget request from President Biden for Program Year 2023-24.



The Pell Institute hosts an in-person TRIO Alumni Faculty Network meeting at the University of Pennsylvania. The network includes over 100 TRIO alumni who are now TRIO faculty members. Twenty members of the network attended a seminar and discussed how to better connect their service, research, and teaching to public engagement. Facilitators include **University of Pennsylvania** faculty and representatives from partnering organizations, the **National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity**, and the **Scholars Strategy Network**.

COE welcomes 150 pre-college TRIO youth from across the United States and U.S. territories for its 33rd National Student Leadership Congress at Georgetown University. Students engage in leadership development activities, speak with admissions representatives at an on-site career fair, learn from TRIO alumni in various professions through engaging panel sessions, and share their TRIO experiences during Hill visits with their Members of Congress. The capstone of the National Student Leadership Congress is a **Mock Congress** that allows student teams to debate legislative proposals.



COE concludes its fiscal year by exceeding its FY22 membership and personal contributions fundraising goal by 24%, raising a total of \$4.5 million through its annual Fair Share campaign. In FY22, ten regions, 43 states, and four federal territories (Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Puerto Rico) exceed their fundraising goals.

July 2022

The Pell Institute hosts its 39th Annual Student Financial Aid Research Network (SFARN) conference at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. SFARN, a premier space for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss pressing financial aid issues in higher education, attracts more than 40 higher education financial aid researchers and professionals from across the country to participate in the two-day conference, now sponsored by Pell with support from the **Trellis Foundation** and **Ascendium**.



In partnership with its Dutch partners, ECHO and the Hague University of Applied Sciences, COE hosts the first post-pandemic Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad Program. Fifteen TRIO McNair and Student Support

2022 Year in Review



Services students and two group leaders from across the country immerse themselves socially and culturally in [the Netherlands](#), meet student leaders representing immigrant communities, and study at The Hague Summer School. Classes focus on solving global issues and connecting the public and private sectors.

August 2022



The U.S. Department of Education funds COE to provide professional development to new TRIO directors. The professional development targets recruitment, providing effective services to TRIO participants, legislation and regulations, effective budget management, and evaluation.

September 2022



COE hosts its 2022 Annual Conference in San Diego, draws 1,800 in-person participants and 300 virtually. The opening [high-octane panel](#) features partnership between TRIO programs and businesses and nonprofit cultural institutions. Discussants include actress **DeWanda Wise**, Comcast Senior Vice President **Marge Jackson**, and Director of Brand Marketing at Universal Pictures **Henry Ong**, and COE President Maureen Hoyler. A *Jurassic*-themed reception sponsored by **Internet Essentials by Comcast** follows. Conference participants enjoy more than 60 hybrid concurrent sessions.

Five TRIO alumni—Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, T-Mobile Senior National Education Administrator Kiesha King, University of Puerto Rico Professor Marinilda Rivera Diaz, Founder and Director of the Reentry Campus Program James Monteiro, and 2021 Achiever and Author Sarah Smarsh—accept the National TRIO Achiever Award at the Educational Opportunity Dinner. COE also honors the California broadcasting powerhouse [Padilla family](#) with the TRIO Family Achievement Award. Eight of the Padilla family members, all of whom had humble beginnings as self-described “field workers,” participated in Upward Bound at **California Lutheran University** and now enjoy high-profile careers as executives in the broadcasting industry.



COE highlights TRIO as a resource for justice-impacted individuals as Congress and the Biden Administration implement new policies.

In partnership with the Vera Institute of Justice, COE hosts a briefing on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress, staff, and other higher education representatives. During the briefing, entitled “Education Access and Support Services for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals,” formerly incarcerated individuals, representatives from corrections systems, and other stakeholders discuss how higher education policy can continue to advance educational opportunities for justice-impacted

individuals. COE’s efforts to engage legislators and outside organizations to create a coalition on this issue are quite

2022 Year in Review

timely. Through the 2020 FASFA Simplification Act, starting in the 2023-2024 academic year, incarcerated individuals will be eligible to receive Pell Grants.

The Pell Institute publishes volume IV of its *Opportunity Matters Journal* in a special issue titled “The Next 40 Years of TRIO.” The [journal](#) includes ten peer-reviewed articles highlighting best practices within TRIO programs. The articles contribute to ongoing discussions regarding how to prepare TRIO programs for the future.



The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awards the Pell Institute \$200,000 for research and engagement. This grant reflects the foundation’s continued support for the Pell Institute into 2023 and the Institute’s ongoing research to explore and address issues affecting student access, success, and equity within higher education.

October 2022



COE sponsors two Executive Leadership Institutes for TRIO state leaders. After a two-year hiatus due to the global pandemic, COE resumes its Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals with two events—one at the **University of Kansas** and one at the original host site of **Princeton University**. Sixty current and rising leaders of TRIO state chapters participate in sessions on the history and impact of organized TRIO, interactive workshops on team building and turning vision into action.

November 2022

COE centers its First-Generation College Celebration (FGCC) around adult learners in honor of the 50th anniversaries of the Educational Opportunity Center, Veterans Upward Bound, and the Pell Grant programs. In partnership with **NASPA’s Center for First-generation Student Success**, COE hosts a [panel discussion](#) focusing on the experiences of first-generation adult students, the unique challenges they face in pursuing postsecondary education, and how institutions can do more to support them. As the FGCC movement grows, several graduate and professional schools participate in the week’s activities. COE and NASPA also award 50 colleges and institutions grants to support their local celebrations. This panel features former COE Board Member and Obama Administration official **Brenda Dann-Messier** and Morehead State University Educational Opportunity Center Director and alumnus **Matthew Donovan**.



December 2022



COE receives initial funding to launch a Career Opportunities Initiative to increase equitable employment outcomes for first-generation, low-income college graduates. The \$450,000 investment from **Strada Education Network** will assist COE in building the



2022 Year in Review

infrastructure and framework to provide TRIO undergraduates with the knowledge, skills, and networks to launch their careers.

Congress announces a bipartisan funding agreement with a \$54 million (4.7%) increase for TRIO for FY23. [The legislation](#) also directs the **Department of Education** “to provide increases to current TRIO grantees demonstrating substantial progress in meeting performance objectives.” The increase for TRIO is higher as a percentage compared to the topline (4%) increase for the Department of Education.

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is a nonprofit organization established in 1981, dedicated to expanding college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities. Through its myriad membership services, the Council works with colleges, universities, and agencies that host federal TRIO programs that help more than 800,000 low-income students and students with disabilities each year receive college access and retention services.

TRIO programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program) help students overcome economic, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. TRIO services include assistance in choosing a college and tutoring; personal, financial, and career counseling; assistance in applying to college; workplace and college visits; special instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic assistance in high school or assistance to reenter high school or college.